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PART VIII.

RECALL OF CAPTAIN VON PAPEN, MILITARY ATTACHÉ, AND CAPTAIN BOY-ED, NAVAL ATTACHÉ, OF THE GER-MAN EMBASSY AT WASHINGTON.

The Secretary of State to the German Ambassador.

No. 1686.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, December 4, 1915.

EXCELLENCY: Confirming my conversation with you on December first, I have the honor to state that various facts and circumstances having come to the knowledge of the Government of the United States as to the connection of Captain Boy-Ed, Naval Attaché, and Captain von Papen, Military Attaché, of the Imperial German Embassy, with the illegal and questionable acts of certain persons within the United States, the President reached the conviction that the continued presence of these gentlemen as Attachés of the Embassy would no longer serve the purpose of their mission, and would be unacceptable to this Government.

The President, therefore, directed me to notify Your Excellency, as I did orally, that Captain Boy-Ed and Captain von Papen are no longer acceptable to the Government of the United States as Attachés of His Imperial Majesty's Embassy at Washington, and to request that your Excellency's Government withdraw them immediately from their official connection with the Imperial German Embassy.

As I informed you at the time of our interview, the Government of the United States deeply regrets that this action has become necessary and believes that the Imperial Government will realize that this Government has, in view of all the circumstances, no alternative course consistent with the interests of the two Governments in their relations with each other.

Accept, etc.,

ROBERT LANSING.

The Secretary of State to the German Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, December 10, 1915.

My Dear Mr. Ambassador: On December 1st I informed Your Excellency that Captain Boy-Ed, the Naval Attaché of your Embassy, and Captain von Papen, the Military Attaché, were no longer personæ gratæ to my Government and requested that the Imperial Government immediately recall the two attachés.

As ten days have passed without the request of this Government being complied with and without communication from you on the subject other than your personal letter of the 5th instant, which in no way affected the fact that the two attachés were unacceptable or presented a ground for delay, I feel compelled to direct your attention to the expectation of this Government that its request would be immediately granted.

I trust, my dear Mr. Ambassador, that you appreciate the situation and will urge upon your Government a prompt compliance with the request in order that this Government may not be compelled to take action without awaiting the recall of the attachés, an action which this Government does not desire to take but will be forced to take unless the Imperial Government meets the express wish of this Government without further delay. I need not impress upon Your Excellency the desirability of avoiding a circumstance which would increase the embarrassment of the present situation.

I am, etc.,

ROBERT LANSING.

 $The\ German\ Ambassador\ to\ the\ Secretary\ of\ State.$

[Translation.]

J. Nr. A 8061.]

GERMAN EMBASSY, Washington, December 10, 1915.

Mr. Secretary of State: In reply to your note No. 1686 of the 4th of this month, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that his Majesty the Emperor and King has been most graciously pleased to recall the Naval Attaché of the Imperial Embassy, Captain Boy-Ed, and the Military Attaché, Captain von Papen.

I am instructed to beg Your Excellency to obtain for the above-named gentlemen and their servants, Gustav Winkow and Otto Mahlow, a safe conduct for the return trip to Germany from the Powers at war with the German Empire, and also to insure the trip of the successors of those gentlemen to the United States in the event of their being appointed by His Majesty.

Accept, etc.,

J. Bernstorff.

The Secretary of State to the German Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, December 11, 1915.

EXCELLENCY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note of the 10th instant, notifying me that His Majesty the Emperor and King has been pleased to recall Captain Boy-Ed, the Naval Attaché, and Captain von Papen, the Military Attaché, of the Imperial German Embassy, pursuant to this Government's request of the 4th instant.

In accordance with Your Excellency's wishes, I have had the honor to request of the Powers at war with the German Empire safe conducts for these gentlemen and their servants, Gustav Winkow and Otto Mahlow. Upon the receipt of notice that His Majesty the Emperor and King has designated the successors of these gentlemen, and after the Government of the United States has decided upon their acceptability, it will be my pleasure to request the Powers at war with the German Empire to provide safe conducts for their passage to the United States.

Accept, etc.,

ROBERT LANSING.

The Secretary of State to the German Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, December 15, 1915.

My Dear Mr. Ambassador: I am advised by the British and French Ambassadors that safe conducts will be furnished to Captains Boy-Ed and von Papen for their return to Germany, it being understood that they will take the southern route to Holland. The Ambassadors request information as to the vessel and date of sailing of the two gentlemen, which I hope you will furnish at your earliest convenience. It is also understood that they will, of course, perform no unneutral act, such as carrying dispatches to the German Government.

I am, etc.,

ROBERT LANSING.

The Secretary of State to the German Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, December 18, 1915.

EXCELLENCY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th instant, by which I am advised that His Majesty the Emperor has recalled Captain Boy-Ed and Captain von Papen, Naval Attaché and Military Attaché, respectively, of your Embassy, and requested to obtain for these officers a safe conduct for their return trip to Germany.

I did not fail to place myself at once in communication with the British and French Ambassadors on the subject, and I have now the honor to transmit to Your Excellency two authenticated sets of copies of notes from them, which I am assured will be regarded by officers of the Allied cruisers as safe conducts, provided Captain Boy-Ed and Captain von Papen follow the south route via Holland. I further enclose a passport for each of these gentlemen.

Accept, etc.,

ROBERT LANSING.